

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **Officials urge homeowners to complete form:**

*Pink form helps taxpayers save green*

FRANKLIN COUNTY, IN - When taxpayers in Franklin County receive their property tax bills in the mail in the coming days, they will want to pay close attention to the pink piece of paper that accompanies the bill.

The pink or rose-colored form is the "homestead verification form," and it must be completed if homeowners want to continue receiving the benefit of the homestead deduction – the most commonly used property tax deduction in Indiana.

"Completing the form confirms that the individual is using the property as his or her permanent home, an eligibility requirement of the deduction," said County Auditor Susan Jones.

Individuals or married couples claiming the homestead deduction must provide the last five digits of their driver's license and social security numbers. This information will be placed in a secure database that will enable all county auditors in Indiana to cross-check names, identifying those who may be claiming a homestead deduction in more than one county.

"The homestead deduction gives a qualifying individual or couple a substantial property tax benefit by lowering their property tax obligation," said County Auditor Susan Jones. "When individuals who do not qualify receive this benefit, it costs other taxpayers more."

The homestead deduction allows homeowners who use a property as a primary residence to qualify for a reduction of up to 60 percent of the initial gross assessed value, plus up to an additional 35 percent of the remaining assessed value. Finally, it is through the homestead deduction that county assessors and auditors identify which taxpayers receive the benefit of the one percent property tax cap.

Specific questions about property tax deduction eligibility or the homestead verification form should be directed to the Franklin County Auditor's Office, Phone No. (765) 647-4631. Office Hours Monday thru Friday 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. The Homestead Verification Form Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions, will also be posted on the [franklincounty.in.gov](http://franklincounty.in.gov) website.

Mail "Pink Homestead Verification Form" to Franklin County Auditor, 1010 Franklin Ave., Brookville, IN 47012 or mail with you tax statement to Franklin County Treasurer, 1010 Franklin Ave., Brookville, IN 47012.

Additional information is available on the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance's Web site at <http://www.in.gov/dlgf/8455.htm>.

Tax bills were mailed on Friday, April 23, 2010, according to County Treasurer Rebecca Oglesby and County Auditor Susan Jones. Tax bills will have a due date of May 10, 2010.